Recommendation Regarding Minimum Daily Wages

†1738. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made a recommendation to fix minimum daily wages at Rs. 80 per day in the country;

(b) if so, the date on which this order was issued and the date from which it was decided to be enforced;

(c) whether the said decision will be implemented under the National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Floor Level Minimum Wage has been revised from Rs. 66/- to Rs. 80/- per day with effect from 01.09.2007.

(c) and (d) The revision of National Floor Level Minimum Wages by the Government is a non-statutory measure. Thus the State/Union Territory Governments have been requested to revise the minimum wages upwards so as to ensure that in none of the scheduled employments, the minimum wages are less than the national floor level minimum wage of Rs. 80/- per day.

Until the Central Government specifies the wage rate for workers in respect of different areas under section 6(1) of the National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) Act, 2005, the minimum wages fixed for agricultural workers by the State Governments/Union Territories under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 shall be considered as the wage rate applicable to that area in view of the provision under Section 6(2) of the NREG Act, 2005.

Bonded labour and child labour

†1739. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of achievements of programmes run by Government for the elimination of bonded labour and to stop child labour during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(b) whether regional organizations and NGOs are extending their cooperation in these Governmental programmes for elimination of bonded labour; and

(c) if so, details of the bonded labourers and child labourers freed by Government during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) In order to rehabilitate the released bonded labour, the Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour since May 1978. The Scheme provides for rehabilitation assistance of Rs. 20,000 per bonded labour, which is equally shared by the Centre and State Government on 50:50 basis. During the last five years, 6123 bonded labourers have been identified and rehabilitated.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

With a view to rehabilitating children withdrawn from notified occupations and processes, the Government is implementing National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 250 districts across 20 States of the country. During the last five years, a total of 3,41,290 children have been mainstreamed into the formal system of education.

The Non Governmental Organizations are being associated to run the special schools in those districts, which are not covered under NCLP scheme for rehabilitation of child labour.

Payment to women for their work

1740. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the findings of National Family Health Survey III, one in four women did not receive any payment for their work as compared to 92 per cent of the men who earned cash for their work and only 5 per cent did not get paid; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that women receive due payment for their work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The findings of National Family Health Survey-III pertains to men and women of the age group 15-49. The Survey was conducted in the year 2005-06. According to this survey, 55% of employed women are paid in cash and an additional 12% get combination of Cash and in-kind. Thus, 67% of employed women in the age group 15 to 49 earn cash. Around 22% of women are not paid at all, while 11% are paid in kind only.

In case of employed men, 91% of employed men earn cash. Around 6% of employed men in the age group of 15-49 do not get paid at all where as around 3% get paid in kind only.

(b) The Equal Remuneration Act provides for payment of equal remuneration to men and women for the same work or work of a similar nature without any discrimination. This Act is implemented by the respective State Governments for the areas under their jurisdiction and monitored by the Central Government. The State Governments are also addressed from time to time to ensure strict compliance of the provisions of the Act. For the areas under the Central Government, the Act is implemented by the office of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central).

Freeing country from child labour

1741. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is trying to make our country free of child labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the child labour details in the country, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the welfare measure taken for them, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Government is committed to elimination of child labour from this country. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, Government